

Message Text

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TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE ARCHEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION: MEETING WITH
PRCLO OFFICIAL OCTOBER 23

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1. ASSISTANT NGA DIRECTOR PARKHURST AND DEPARTMENT
OFFICIAL ON OCTOBER 23 MET WITH PRCLO COUNSELOR HSIEH
CH'I-MEI TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF EXHIBITION. TWO MAJOR
PROBLEMS EMERGED.

2. CATALOGUE: ON OCTOBER 16 WE FINALLY RECEIVED NEGA-
TIVES FROM CHINESE IN CANADA AS PROMISED IN PEKING 1736.
SINCE THAT TIME HSIEH HAS BEEN PRESSURING GALLERY TO USE
THESE CHINESE PICTURES OF THE EXHIBITS FOR CATALOGUE AND
POSTERS. NGA TOLD CHINESE THAT IT WOULD USE AS MANY AS
POSSIBLE, BUT THAT BECAUSE OF DEADLINE SCHEDULES, IT HAS
HAD TO PROCEED WITH ITS ORIGINAL PLANS TO USE LONDON TIMES
PICTURES FOR CATALOGUE. (IN CONFIDENCE GALLERY INFORMED
DEPARTMENT THAT CHINESE PICTURES OF GENERALLY LOW QUALITY
AND INFERIOR TO LONDON PHOTOS). AT OCTOBER 23 MEETING
HSIEH AGAIN PRESSED PARKHURST ON WHETHER GALLERY INTENDED
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TO USE CHINESE PICTURES IN CATALOGUE AND POSTERS.

PARKHURST REPLIED THAT TIME WOULD NOT ALLOW SUBSTITUTION OF PHOTOS SINCE THE CATALOGUE WAS ALREADY SEVERAL STAGES ADVANCED IN PRODUCTION. HE ADDED THAT CHINESE PHOTOS OF OBJECTS, WHICH GALLERY WOULD LIKE TO USE FOR POSTERS, WERE NOT TECHNICALLY SUITABLE FOR POSTERS.

HSIEH, OBVIOUSLY VERY NERVOUS AND UPSET BY THIS REPLY, SEVERAL TIMES REITERATED THAT HE WAS SURE THE GALLERY WOULD FIND SOME WAY TO USE CHINESE PICTURES FOR THE CATALOGUE AND POSTERS.

3. HSIEH THEN SAID THAT HE HAS LEARNED THAT USLO HAS MISINFORMED MFA ABOUT THE CATALOGUE DUMMIES, TELLING MFA THAT DUMMIES CONTAINED ALL PICTURES OF THE OBJECTS TO BE INCLUDED IN FINAL VERSION OF CATALOGUE, WHEREAS ONLY A SAMPLE OF THE OBJECT PICTURES WERE ACTUALLY INCLUDED. DEPARTMENT OFFICER ADMITTED THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING, BUT EXPLAINED THAT WE ATTEMPTED TO INCLUDE ALL THE MAJOR TEXT IN THE DUMMIES, BUT WE ASSUMED THE CHINESE KNEW WE WERE PLANNING TO USE THE LONDON PICTURES AND, THEREFORE, IT WAS NOT CRUCIAL TO INCLUDE ALL OF THEM. PARKHURST PROMISED TO SEND THE REMAINING PICTURES TO PRCLC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

COMMENT: WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY CHINESE ARE SO STICKY ABOUT USING THEIR PICTURES IN CATALOGUE. WE HAVE NEVER MADE ANY COMMITMENT TO THEM IN THIS RESPECT. PERHAPS THIS INVOLVES A COMMITMENT HSIEH HAD MADE TO PEKING OR HSIEH IS APPREHENSIVE ABOUT HAVING TO CLEAR LONDON PHOTOS AND WOULD PREFER GALLERY USE ALREADY CLEARED CHINESE PHOTOS. AT ANY RATE, AT URGING OF DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, PARKHURST IS ATTEMPTING TO FIND SOME WAY TO INCLUDE A FEW CHINESE PHOTOS IN CATALOGUE AND/OR POSTERS. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL PROVIDE SOME FACE-SAVING FOR HSIEH AND MAKE HIM EASIER TO WORK WITH FOR THE REST OF THE SHOW. END COMMENT

PRESS COVERAGE: GALLERY INFORMATION OFFICER THEN GAVE HSIEH A RUNDOWN OF PLANS FOR PRESS COVERAGE, INCLUDING THE DECEMBER 10 PRESS PREVIEW TO WHICH ALL WASHINGTON-CONFIDENTIAL

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BASED (LOCAL AND FOREIGN) MEDIA WOULD BE INVITED TO VISIT AND PHOTOGRAPH SHOW. HSIEH SEEMED AGREEABLE TO THIS ARRANGEMENT, BUT ADDED THAT PRC WOULD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH CERTAIN FOREIGN JOURNALISTS, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THE "CHIANG KAI SHEK CLIQUE JOURNALISTS". THE GALLERY SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO EXCLUDE ANYONE, BECAUSE THE INVITATION WAS A GENERAL ONE WHICH WENT TO ALL MEDIA OVER A CITY WIRE. HSIEH ASKED IF IT

WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE TO SEND SPECIFIC INVITATIONS TO THE MEDIA, OR AT LEAST SENDING A GENERAL INVITATION TO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS AND INDIVIDUAL ONES TO FOREIGN NEWSMEN. GALLERY OFFICIALS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED THAT POSSIBILITY WITH HSIEH, DESCRIBING THE PROBLEMS INVOLVED. THEY SPECIFICALLY ASKED ABOUT WHAT THEY COULD

DO IF THE "OFFENSIVE" CORRESPONDENT APPEARED AT THE PREVIEW UNINVITED. HSIEH INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO TURN HIM AWAY. HSIEH FURTHER INDICATED THAT THERE WERE OTHERS WHO WOULD ALSO NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PRC AND OFFERED TO FURNISH A LIST. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS NOTED THAT THIS WAS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM SINCE THE PRESS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE VERY SENSITIVE TO THEIR RIGHTS AND IF THIS WERE NOT HANDLED WELL IT COULD BECOME A SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT TO ALL CONCERNED. IT WAS FINALLY AGREED THAT THIS WAS A PROBLEM WHICH WE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS FURTHER.

GALLERY INFORMATION OFFICER THEN RAISED QUESTION OF SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR COVERAGE OF THE EXHIBITION E.G., TV DOCUMENTARIES, MAGAZINE FEATURES ETC. HSIEH REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THESE AND STRAIGHT NEWS REPORTS. THE LATTER, HE ADDED, WERE SHORT AND SIMPLE. BUT IN THE CASE OF FILMS AND MORE SUBSTANTIAL COVERAGE OF THE SHOW, THE CHINESE WOULD WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE DETAILS AND CONTENTS OF SUCH PROGRAMS. HE AGREED IT WOULD BE BEST TO TAKE THESE UP ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

COMMENT: AS EXPECTED WE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CERTAIN JOURNALISTS AT THE PRESS PREVIEW. WE ARE CONSIDERING BEST APPROACH TO TAKE. WE WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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PLEASED, HOWEVER, THAT CHINESE WERE NOT, AS IT APPEARED EARLIER FROM PEKING 1811, SEEKING BLANKET PROHIBITION OF FOREIGN NEWSMEN FROM COVERING SHOW. INGERSOLL

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